

**Minutes
Land Committee
Hard Labor Creek State Park
Golf Course Conference Room
1400 Knox Chapel Road
Social Circle, GA 30025**

**May 25, 2021
9:00 a.m.**

Attendees:

Committee Members

Dwight Evans, Chair
William Bagwell
Randy Dellinger
Patrick Denney
Bill Jones
Rob Leebern
Tim Lowe
Billy New
Bodine Sinyard
Miki Thomaston
Dee Yancey, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Paul Shailendra
Gary Vowell

Guests

Blake Raulerson, Governor's Office

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Josh Hildebrandt
Cathy Barnette
Artica Gaston
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Tina Johannsen
John Bowers

Richard Dunn, Director
John Eunice
Jac Capp
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Laura Williams

The May 25, 2021 meeting of the Land Committee was called to order by Dee Yancey, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Yancey called on Dwight Evans, Chairman of the Land Committee. Mr. Evans called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item A is requesting approval to acquire (purchase) of 5,651± acres of real property, Ceylon WMA, The Conservation Fund Phase 2, Camden County, for conservation and recreational purposes.

Mr. Friedman stated the Department currently leases Ceylon from The Conservation Fund (TCF) and Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc. (OSI) and manages it as a public WMA, and the proposal is to close on the remaining acres held by The Conservation Fund.

Mr. Friedman stated that Ceylon, which joins Cabin Bluff, has become a very popular recreation tract and has exceptionally high conservation values. He further stated that because the Navy considers Ceylon so important to conserve, by the time phase 2 closes, it will have contributed \$10 to acquire a conservation easement over all of it. He added for the TCF Phase 2 tract, the Navy will pay TCF \$2,656,000 for the conservation easement. He further added the Woodruff Foundation contributed \$4 million and the Bobolink Foundation contributed \$5 million to the entire project, which along with the Navy funding, reduces the purchase price.

Mr. Friedman stated the Department will acquire the property with State, federal and private funds. He further stated that as a condition of receiving these funds, an affidavit will be recorded against the property stated that it may not be disposed of in any manner or used for purposes inconsistent with the programs it was acquired for without prior approval of the GA Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP), U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U. S. Forest Service (USFS), Knobloch Family Foundation (KFF), Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, Bobolink Foundation, TCF, OSI and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

Mr. Friedman requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Denney, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the Acquisition (purchase) of 5,651± acres of real property, Ceylon WMA, The Conservation Fund Phase 2, Camden County, as presented.

Mr. Friedman stated that Item B is seeking approval to acquire (purchase) 6,011± acres of real property, Ceylon WMA, in Camden County. He further stated the Department currently

leases Ceylon from The Conservation Fund (TCF) and Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc. (OSI) and manages it as a public WMA, and the proposal is to close on the remaining acres held by Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc.

Mr. Friedman stated for the TCF Phase 2 tract, the Navy will pay OSI \$2,344,000 for the conservation easement. He added the Woodruff Foundation contributed \$4 million and the Bobolink Foundation contributed \$5 million to the entire project, which along with the Navy funding, reduces the Department's purchase price.

Mr. Friedman stated the Department will acquire the property with State, federal and private funds. He further stated that as a condition of receiving these funds, an affidavit will be recorded against the property stated that it may not be disposed of in any manner or used for purposes inconsistent with the programs it was acquired for without prior approval of the GA Outdoor Stewardship Program (GOSP), U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U. S. Forest Service (USFS), Knobloch Family Foundation (KFF), Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, Bobolink Foundation, TCF, OSI and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

Mr. Friedman requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval of the Acquisition (purchase) of 6,011± acres of real property, Ceylon WMA, Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc. Phase 2, Camden County, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.